

July 2008 Activities Report

1. Adopted Statement on the Six Functions of the Planning Council
 - ◆ The Planning Council “shines a light” on issues that need attention by bringing them up repeatedly and advocating for them
 - ◆ The Planning Council studies issues and contributes to the body of knowledge on issues and solutions, usually in the form of a year’s work plan
 - ◆ The Planning Council influences policy, legislation, and regulations by giving input, writing letters, giving testimony, working with coalitions, and other related activities
 - ◆ The Planning Council holds people accountable by requesting reports and data, producing reports, or using the results in the above activities
 - ◆ The Planning Council contributes to the work of others by critiquing, raising comments and questions, and providing a forum for them to present their work
 - ◆ The Planning Council develops leaders at the State and county level
2. Veterans Mental Health Issues

The Planning Council issued a policy paper on veterans mental health issues, “Recommendations to Strengthen Mental Health Services for Military Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families.” This report was developed in response to the large numbers of military personnel and their families who are experiencing mental and emotional health problems resulting from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. The report can be accessed at our website.
3. State Hospital Oversight

As a part of our on-going effort to monitor the performance of state hospitals, we issued a report on use of seclusion and restraints in state hospitals. Findings include that restraints are used to a much greater extent than seclusion and that overall all indicators for seclusion and restraint are on a downward trend for the last three quarters of 2006, the period for which data were available. The report can be accessed at our website.
4. Workforce Education and Training (WET)
 - ◆ Evaluation of WET: the Human Resources Committee will be working with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the California Mental Health Directors Association on developing and monitoring the evaluation of state and county administered WET programs. WET programs and program administrators will be evaluated based upon their compliance to the statutory mandate of the Mental Health Services Act Education and Training sections, contractual mandates, and performance indicators published in the Five-Year Plan.

Over the next year the Human Resources Committee will be focusing on this important topic. Staff will be conducting monthly meetings with the DMH in order to monitor development of the evaluation and the process used to communicate to stakeholders the performance of local and state administered WET programs.

 - ◆ Benefits Planning: The Human Resources Committee is developing a consumer employment project to utilize disability benefits information; e.g. websites, statewide tools and materials, and federal materials. This project will help consumer understand the implications of employment on their current benefits.